

**April 24, 2014 meeting minutes
Cambridge GLBT Commission**

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, MAY 22, 2014

Call to Order.

Kevin Shpritzer recorded these minutes.

Agenda for the April 24 meeting was accepted.

The minutes of the March 27 meeting were approved.

Commissioners Present: Kevin Shpritzer, Aren Stone, Mal Malme, Kristina Mastropasqua, John Gintell, Neil Scannell, Anna Weick, Bill Barnert, Rachel Oppenheimer, Bob Parlin, Steven Lee, Paul Miller, Neil MacInnes-Barker, Gregory Grays-Thomas, Lesley Phillips

Commissioners Absent: (excused) Caitlin Drechsler, Kara Smith, Mike McKenna, Maggie Giles

Guests: Ed Byrne (Coordinator of Student Diversity Programs at CRLS and aide to Mayor Maher)

I. Welcome

II. Budget

- a. Steven gave a budget report.
- b. We have spent about \$700 thus far this fiscal year.
- c. Kara just ordered about \$1300 in giveaway items for outreach tables (pens, bracelets, and temporary tattoos), and we have \$300 remaining in our budget to order more.

III. Past Events

- a. **Boston LGBT Film Festival – April 4**
 - i. We co-sponsored a showing of a film at the Brattle Theater.
 - ii. We had a table at the event and the show was nearly sold out.
- b. **LGBTQ HUD (Housing and Urban Development) Fair Housing Seminar**
 - i. Aren reported on her attendance at this seminar. She added the HUD policy “regarding equal access to HUD housing regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity” to the information in the cart.
 - ii. The Cambridge Human Rights Commission and National Center for Lesbian Rights put this on.
 - iii. Presenters from NCLR and GLAD (Gay & Lesbian Advocates and Defenders) spoke.
 - iv. Youth on Fire members and Neil M-B. also presented.
- c. **Elder Fair Health & Wellness Expo – Holiday Inn, Somerville – April 23**
 - i. Bill and John attended and had a Commission table.
 - ii. Kate Thomas (Somerville/Cambridge Elder Services) shared a table with them.
 - iii. John spoke to organizations that deal with home care. He asked them whether they have policies about working with LGBT seniors.

- iv. Bill spoke with a representative from the LGBT Elder Legal Rights Project of Greater Boston Legal Services and its Cambridge & Somerville Legal Services office.
 - 1. They provide free legal advice for LGBT people over 60, and outreach and community legal education to groups of elders or elder service providers.

IV. Upcoming Events

a. MayFair – May 4

- i. We will have a table at the event.
- ii. 12-2pm – Aren and Anna
- iii. 2-4pm – Gregory and Paul
- iv. 4-6pm – Bob and Mike
- v. Upon arrival, Aren and Anna should find a DPW worker to pull a table and two chairs off their truck to deliver to our space.
- vi. Bob and Mike should find a DPW employee at the end of their shift to pick up the table and chairs.

b. LGBT Seniors Conference in Salem – May 14

- i. John will attend this conference.
- ii. It is presented by the LGBT Aging Project, North Shore Elder Services, and Salem State School of Social Work.

c. Library Marriage Event?

- i. The Cambridge Library wants to host a same-sex wedding on May 17.
- ii. Everyone should think about whether we know a same-sex couple looking to get married.
- iii. Since couples will also be able to get married at the City Hall event the evening before, Ed Byrne from City Hall and Marilyn Gagalís from the Library are in contact.

d. Marriage Equality Anniversary Event – May 16

- i. Ed Byrne talked to us about City Hall's progress planning this event. Several Commissioners and a representative from Mass Equality have attended the planning meetings.
- ii. 5pm arrival time at City Hall.
- iii. The first floor of City Hall will be set up with artifacts commemorating the 2004 event and a video of that night playing on a continuous loop.
- iv. The CRLS Jazz Ensemble will play.
- v. Upstairs will be refreshments and a station where videographers will record attendees talking about what marriage equality means to them.
- vi. Speakers will start at 6pm in the upstairs chambers.
- vii. Mayor Maher will give a welcome speech.
- viii. The chorus Voices Rising will perform.
- ix. Mary Bonauto (GLAD) will be the featured speaker, introduced by Kara Coredini (Mass Equality).
- x. Resolutions and proclamations from the city will be presented.
- xi. Couples will be invited to renew their vows, with Councilor Denise Simmons officiating.
- xii. Of course, there will be a wedding cake.
- xiii. The Commission should help promote this event.

- xiv. People should email *mayor@cambridgema.gov* to RSVP to give them a general sense of numbers and to let them know if they're interested in renewing vows or getting married.
- xv. We would like this event to be well-documented.
 - 1. We would like the Cambridge Historical Commission to be involved with this.
 - 2. Speeches will be recorded.
 - 3. Ed will contact CCTV to see if they would like to get involved.

e. **Youth Pride – May 17**

- i. 11am-3pm
- ii. We'll put out a Google response form to find out which commissioners can help.

f. **Pride Brunch – June 14**

- i. The Boston Pride Parade is starting at 11am, an hour earlier than normal.
- ii. Usually, our programs ends and we have buses available to bring people to the Pride Parade at 11:15am.
- iii. This year, we need to send those buses by 10:30am.
- iv. To accommodate this change in time, the coffee and food will be set up by 8:30am, and the program will run from 9-10:15am.
- v. Kristina will reuse the template from last year's postcards to make cards for this year.
- vi. We have received one nomination for the Bayard Rustin Service Award.
 - 1. May 15 is the current deadline for accepting nominations.
 - 2. We will extend that deadline and promote the award to try to solicit additional nominations.
- vii. The Rose Lipkin Award goes to a CRLS student and is chosen by Arthur Lipkin.
- viii. The Recognition Award(s) are chosen by the Commission and go to individuals or organizations.
 - 1. Rachel will accept and collect nominations for the Recognition Award(s) and let the Commission know of the nominations a week before our May meeting.
 - 2. Lesley will research previous award winners.

g. **November Event**

- i. We will start planning for a November event in June.

V. **Follow-Ups**

a. **Youth on Fire**

- i. "No Place Like Home", the documentary about Youth On Fire that Neil M-B made last for year's Commission event, is being shown frequently.
- ii. It has been, or will be, shown at Harvard, MIT, Fort Devens and in New Orleans. He has been invited to show the film at an International LGBT Film Festival in India.
- iii. Looking for funds to send two YOF members to New Orleans. Email suggestions for raising funds to Neil.

b. **Homeless Shelters: Policy/practice/training about Transgender guests**

- i. Gregory and Rachel are working with some homeless organizations and LGBT training organizations about possibilities for training shelter staff.

- ii. Mandy, staff person at Youth On Fire, would like to help support this project. Aren will do an email introduction between Mandy, Greg, and Rachel.
- c. **Youth Advisory Committee**
 - i. Bill has met with Ed Byrne, Homeschoolers QSA, and will be meeting with Buckingham, Brown, and Nichols GSA.
 - ii. Attendance at CRLS Project 10 East has been low. Ed is distributing a survey to students to try and meet their needs and boost participation.
 - iii. Youth Advisory Committee to meet next Monday (April 28).
- d. **Review of Commission web pages for any language changes**
 - i. We want to change “sexual orientation and gender identity” to “sexual orientation and gender expression or identity” wherever it appears on our web page and Facebook page.
 - ii. We can more easily change the web page, Mission Statement, etc., than the ordinance. The ordinance change would require a City Council vote.
 - iii. On web page, “10-15” commissioners needs to be changed to “10-20”. (OK in Ordinance.)
 - iv. The Communications Committee will work on making all changes except for the ordinance.
 - v. Communications Committee to schedule & have a meeting soon.
 - vi. Neil Scannell will review the ordinance & report for next month.
 - vii. Next month’s meeting will include a discussion of possibly changing the Commission’s name to re-order and/or expand the acronym letters.

VI. **Announcements**

- a. Danny is resigning as a commissioner. The Commission is very thankful for his service. At next month’s meeting we will discuss whether to replace this membership spot or keep it open.
- b. SpeakOUT Training is this weekend. SpeakOUT is now using the acronym "GLBTQIA”
- c. Lesley’s partner Linda is up for consideration to be the first out Election Commissioner in Cambridge.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm.